

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A method for installing a cushion and an
2 inflator/horn assembly into a cover having a cover cavity therein for the cushion using
3 only a single reciprocatively movable piston within a tubular housing, said movable
4 piston having an exterior periphery corresponding to the interior periphery of the tubular
5 housing and an interior periphery of the cover cavity, said method comprising the steps
6 of:
7 attaching the cushion to a spacer which is receivable within the cover
8 cavity and which is fixedly positioned relative to an end of the piston;
9 securing the cover in a preferred orientation at one end of a the tubular
10 housing;
11 compacting the cushion into the cover cavity and around the spacer to
12 define a sleeve cavity for the inflator/horn assembly by cycling the piston through one
13 reciprocating movement cycle within the tubular housing; and
14 removing the spacer from said cushion, thereby exposing the sleeve
15 cavity within the compacted cushion for the inflator/horn assembly.

Serial No. 09/766,790

Page 2 of 8

1 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wh rein said step of
2 compacting further includes forming the sleeve cavity such that a predetermined
3 thickness of cushion is disposed between the sleeve cavity and the cover such that a
4 predetermined amount of force applied to the cover will activate the horn.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including the
2 step of inserting a retaining ring into a cushion such that said step of attaching the
3 cushion to the spacer is further defined by attaching said retaining ring to the spacer.

1 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including a base
2 to which the cover is secured, and wherein the tubular housing includes an upper and
3 lower platform, and wherein said compacting step is further defined by using the interior
4 of the tubular housing as a guide for guiding the cushion into the cover cavity as the
5 piston moves through the tubular housing.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the tubular
2 housing is movable between an open position and a closed position relative to the base,
3 wherein said step of securing the cushion to the spacer is further defined by securing
4 the spacer to the piston and further including the steps of raising the piston within the
5 tubular housing toward the upper platform, lowering the lower platform of the housing
6 onto the base to secure the cover, and driving the piston within the housing to compact
7 the cushion into the cover cavity of the cover.

S rial No. 09/766,790

1 6. (Previously Presented) An assembly for assembling a cushion to a
2 cover, said assembly comprising:

3 a base for supporting the cover;

4 a housing defining a generally hollow housing cavity;

5 an air bag housing slidably disposed within said housing cavity; and

6 piston means comprising a single reciprocatively movable element having
7 an exterior periphery corresponding to an interior periphery of the housing cavity and an
8 interior periphery of the cover, for moving the air bag in an up stroke and down stroke
9 within the cavity in a single cycle and for folding the air bag into the cover at the end of
10 the down stroke.

1 7. (Previously Presented) An assembly as in claim 6, wherein the tubular
2 housing is shaped to form the outer periphery of said compacted cushion.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The assembly as in claim 6, wherein the
2 spacer includes an outer periphery shaped to form the sleeve cavity within the cushion.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The assembly as in claim 6, wherein said
2 cushion further includes a retaining ring to attach said cushion to said spacer.

1 10. (Previously Presented) The assembly as in claim 6, wherein said
2 piston is pneumatically actuated between an open and closed position.

1 11. (Previously Presented) A method for installing a cushion into an
2 interior cavity of a cover using one reciprocatively movable piston having a fixed spacer
3 and an exterior periphery corresponding to an interior periphery of the interior cavity,
4 said method comprising the steps of:

5 forming a cushion subassembly and attaching same to the piston, the
6 subassembly including a cushion housing and the cushion;

7 positioning the cover apart from the piston;

8 moving the piston and the attached cushion assembly along a fixed tube
9 in a first direction away from the cover to cause the cushion to expand as it rubs against
10 the inner sides of the tube;

11 moving the piston toward the cover to press the cushion and fixed spacer
12 into the cover, thereby folding same and positioning the housing atop the now folded
13 cushion within the interior of the cover.

1 12. (Original) The method as defined in Claim 11 wherein the step of
2 assembling a subassembly includes securing an inflator to the air bag housing.

13. (Cancelled)

1 14. (Previously Presented) The assembly as defined in Claim 6 wherein
2 the spacer is a mock inflator movable with the piston and locatable within a
3 determinable volume within the cover cavity to prevent the air bag from being folded
4 within this volume.

Serial No. 09/766,790

Page 5 of 8

1 15. (Previously Presented) A method for installing a cushion into a cavity
2 of a cover using only one reciprocatively movable piston having an exterior periphery,
3 said method comprising the steps of:

4 a) providing a hollow folding tube having an interior periphery generally
5 corresponding to the exterior periphery;

6 b) placing the piston near a determinable location in the folding tube;

7 c) attaching an air bag to an air bag housing sized to fit into the cover cavity;

8 d) securing the air bag housing to the piston;

9 e) withdrawing the piston up the folding tube to at least partially elongate the
10 air bag;

11 f) positioning the cover proximate an open end of the folding tube with the
12 cover cavity facing the open end; and

13 g) urging the piston, housing and air bag toward and into the cover cavity
14 until the air bag fills the cover cavity and the housing is placed on the cover.